

dlstestify.txt

I believe strongly in the importance of red light cameras to preserve the safety & civil rights of the citizens of New Haven.

In an age when sophisticated satellite imagery can provide a clear-view of any street in America--and the general public can gain access to such images for mere dollars--I find the objection of privacy advocates to be misplaced & misleading.

Driving a vehicle is a public act, in a public space. Driving a vehicle is a governed act. It is a regulated act. As such, the government has the right to monitor the privilege it has granted--and to deputize certain departments to do this job. Just as the IRS monitors our taxes, so do the police monitor our driving.

However, it is impractical & financially impossible for Police Officers to monitor every intersection at all times. It is impractical & financially impossible to have human eyes on every possible danger spot, twenty-four hours a day. Recently video cameras have played a part in catching drivers guilty of reckless, life-endangering driving, such as the driver who committed a hit and run against a cyclist in Branford. Without the video tapes of a local convenience store, this may have been another case similar to the death of 11 year old Gabrielle Lee. Gabrielle was killed by a hit & run driver while walking to the laundromat to pick up clothes.

A person does have a reasonable expectation of privacy: but even more reasonable is a person's expectation to be able to live & enjoy their life. New Haven is doing our part, with community efforts & city efforts to educate, enforce, & engineer. We now need our representatives & legislators to support us in this effort. I urge you to support this bill.

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